

Applicant: Kaever et al.  
Application No.: 10/576,973

**In The Claims**

1. (Canceled)

2. (Canceled)

3. (Canceled)

4. (Canceled)

5. (Canceled)

6. (Canceled)

7. (Canceled)

8. (Canceled)

9. (Canceled)

10. (Canceled)

11. (Canceled)

12. (Canceled)

13. (Canceled)

14. (Canceled)

15. (Canceled)

16. (Canceled)

17. (Currently Amended) A method for monitoring and identifying dairy animals, the method comprising the steps of:

recognizing with a sensor the presence of ~~[[a]]~~ dairy animals moving in a milking parlor

comprising a number of milking stalls;

assigning a number to the each dairy animal, whereby the number corresponds to a

stall in which the dairy animal will be milked;

storing the number for each dairy animal in a process controller;

~~attempting to read identification data~~ conducting an identification step for the each dairy

animal with a sensor that interacts with an information storage device carried by

the dairy animal to obtain identification data for that dairy animal; ~~and~~

assigning the number and the identification data for each dairy animal to an

information unit;

making each information unit available at the stall in which the animal belonging to the

information units is located;

indicating stalls at which the information unit does not contain identification data;

conducting a second identification step at the indicated stalls; and

controlling a dairy operation in each stall corresponding to the identification data for the

dairy animal in the stall ~~when the step of attempting to read identification data for~~

~~a dairy animal was successful.~~

18. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 17, and further comprising the step of:

generating a signal when the step of ~~attempting to read~~ conducting an identification step

to obtain identification data for a dairy animal was not successful.

19. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 17, ~~and further comprising wherein the~~  
~~second identification step of: results from a signal being given to signaling~~ a dairy operator to  
visually identify the dairy animal when the step of ~~attempting to read identification data~~  
~~conducting an identification step~~ was not successful.

20. (Canceled)

21. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 17, and further comprising the step of:  
determining the speed of the dairy animal moving in the milking parlor with a  
plurality of sensors.

22. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 17, and further comprising the step of:  
determining the direction the dairy animal is moving in the dairy parlor with a plurality of  
sensors.

23. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 17, and further comprising the step of:  
diverting milk from a dairy animal being milked when the step of ~~attempting to read~~  
~~identification data~~ conducting an identification step for that dairy animal was not  
successful.